

PCT Appl. No. : CT/AU00/00652

Filed : Herewith

can be repeatedly exposed if desired, but can also be disabled once further use is no longer desired.—

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, immediately after the title, please insert Related applications This application claims the benefit of the Australian application PQ 0892 filed June 10, 1999 and the international application PCT/AU00/00652 filed June 9, 2000.—

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A disposable lancet device for piercing human skin comprising:
 - a lancet housing;
 - a lancet body displaceably supported by the housing and having a piercing tip which is concealed within the housing in a rest position of the body;
 - an operator engaged with the lancet body for manually displacing the lancet body to expose the piercing tip; and
 - a return against which the lancet body operates as it is manually displaced to expose the piercing tip whereby the return automatically retracts the lancet body to its rest position when the manual displacement force is removed from the operator wherein the operator is adapted to be disengaged from the lancet body after use to prevent subsequent manual displacement of the lancet body from its rest position.
2. (Amended) The disposable lancet device of claim 1, wherein manual force applied to the operator is translated to the lancet body for displacing the lancet body from its rest position.
3. (Amended) The disposable lancet device of claim 1, wherein the return holds the lancet body in its rest position.
4. (Amended) The disposable lancet device of claim 1, wherein the return comprises at least one resilient projection extending from the lancet body, wherein the resilient projection is deformed by a portion of the housing when the lancet body is displaced from its rest position.

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5. (Amended) The disposable lancet device of claim 1, wherein the return comprises at least one resilient projection extending from the housing, wherein the resilient projection is deformed by a portion of the lancet body when the lancet body is displaced from its rest position.

6. (Amended) The disposable lancet device of claim 1, wherein the return comprises a coil spring.

7. (Amended) The disposable lancet device of claim 1, wherein the lancet body is supported for linear displacement by the housing.

8. (Amended) The disposable lancet device of claim 1, wherein the operator is disposed on the axis of displacement of the lancet body.

9. (Amended) The disposable lancet device of claim 1, wherein the lancet body, operating means and piercing tip form a generally elongate member.

10. (Amended) The disposable lancet device of claim 1, wherein the lancet body is non-linearly displaceable.

11. (Amended) The disposable lancet device of claim 10, wherein the operator projects from the housing to one side of the lancet body.

12. (Amended) The disposable lancet device of claim 1, wherein the operator is integrally moulded with the lancet body.

13. (Amended) The disposable lancet device of claim 12, wherein the operator is breakable from the lancet body at a line of weakness at or adjacent the juncture of the lancet body with the housing when the lancet body is in its rest position.

14. (Amended) The disposable lancet device of claim 1, wherein the operator is connected to the lancet body by a connection device.

15. (Amended) The disposable lancet device of claim 14, wherein the connection device is a snap engaging connection or screw thread.

16. (Amended) The disposable lancet device of claim 1, wherein the piercing tip is secured to the lancet body.

17. (Amended) The disposable lancet device of claim 1, wherein the piercing tip is integral with the lancet body.

18. (Amended) The disposable lancet device of claim 16, wherein the lancet body is moulded around a mounting portion of the tip.

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19. (Amended) The disposable lancet device of claim 1, wherein the piercing tip and lancet body are moulded from the same or different plastics material selected from polycarbonate, polystyrene, and polypropylene.

20. (Amended) The disposable lancet device of claim 18, wherein the piercing tip is formed of metal.

21. (Amended) The disposable lancet device of claim 1, wherein the piercing tip has a cylindrical body tapering to a pointed end.

22. (Amended) The disposable lancet device of claim 1, wherein the piercing tip is multi-sided.

23. (Amended) The disposable lancet device of claim 22, wherein the tip is pyramidal or flat with sharp leading edges.

Please add the following new Claims:

24. (New) The disposable lancet device of Claim 20, wherein the metal comprises stainless steel.

25. (New) A multi-use, safety lancet device comprising:

a lancet housing of a first length;

a lancet body displaceably positioned within the lancet housing;

a piercing tip attached to a first end of the lancet body such that the piercing tip and lancet body together are of a second length less than the first length;

a return biasing the lancet body and piercing tip to a concealed position wherein the lancet housing covers the piercing tip; and

an actuator operating the lancet body between the concealed and an operational positions wherein the piercing tip is exposed and wherein the actuator can repeatedly change between the concealed and operational positions and wherein the actuator is also disableable so as to inhibit further achievement of the operational position.

26. (New) The device of Claim 25, wherein the piercing tip and the lancet body are an integral part.

27. (New) The device of Claim 25, wherein the actuator is attached to the second end of the lancet body opposite the piercing tip such that the actuator, lancet body, and piercing tip together form a lancet assembly having a third length greater than the first length.